

Author James DiEugenio Reviews CNN's 'American Dynasties: The Kennedys' (2018)

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Jim DiEugenio reveals what CNN had to cover up about JFK and RFK in order to make this six-part series.

CNN has devoted a six-part documentary to a project called The Kennedys. One would think that if one spent that much screen time on such a long series that somehow, some way, one would bring something new and interesting to the production. Or at least be able to create some sense of pathos, or perhaps even a sense of impending doom to a saga that clearly contains tragic dimensions on both a personal and national level. To say that this series lacks those qualities is too mild a criticism.

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all right we're here with James D Eugenio he's the author of the JFK assassination the evidence today that and he is also the editor and publisher of Kennedy's and King calm he's just published two new reviews of two television specials that came out the first was on CNN called American dynasties the Kennedys and the article is called CN n desert this services history and you can find that on Kennedys and King and he also wrote a review of Tom Hanks's 1968 the year that change in America so there's also review there I definitely suggest people read these and if you have family members who watch these you can send them to to them for a second a second thought on these shows but thank you Jim for talking to us today sure we'll start with the American dynasty's one that was on CNN all right these two documentaries the first one was a six-part er called American dynasties the Kennedys that was on CNN the second one was 1968 the year that changed America that was also on CNN which see this is kind of disturbing in and of itself because see CNN is supposed to be the moderate channel of the three major cable channels Fox is on the right MSNBC is on the left and CNN is supposed to be in the middle which is really disturbing if these two shows are examples of moderation today because in my view there's no way in the world that either these programs is done from a center or moderate point of view I think

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center or moderate point of view I think they as we're going to see you know they're both especially American dynasties is a very kind of agenda driven completely controlled presentation okay and I and in my article on this which is a Kennedy's in King alright you will see that from the very beginning from the very choice of talking heads this show is completely tilted alright people like randy taraborrelli who is nothing but an entertainment journalist Larry Tye who wrote a book about Bobby Kennedy that was endorsed by what I call the post-war champion of genocides Henry Kissinger mm-hmm all right you know Van Jones I mean what does Van Jones ever written about the Kennedys you know I mean John Van Jones wrote a good book called the green dollar economy what that has to do with the Kennedys is something I don't understand all right ok but I began to see what this show was really about about midway through the second part because

when I was writing for the paper magazine probe I had done what has become kind of a famous article alright which was called the posthumous assassination of John F Kennedy all right that article got one of the most lively responses ever from when I was doing probe I think I published at 97 or 98 in that series it was a two-part series I

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that series it was a two-part series I essentially went through what had caused the publication of Seymour Hersh's piece of junk book the dark side of Camelot alright and I traced where this all started and there was a series of what I call negative biographies that were published after the church committee have been completed which I think was 75 or 76 and I went through all these books and they were by authors like John Davis late John Davis delay Clay Blair David Horowitz and Peter Collier Thomas reuse etc and they all came from the same imprint okay which was pretty easy to deduce after you read one or two of them all right the whole idea was to counteract the first wave of books about the Kennedys if you recall after JFK was assassinated there was a series of I'd say about four books that came out from people who knew him pretty well and these books did not just deal with JFK they dealt with other members of his family like Bobby Kennedy and Ted Kennedy and so if you recall these were like a thousand days by Arthur Schlesinger which is a very good book all right there was also Ted Sorensen book Kennedy and there was also Johnny we hardly knew ye by O'Donnell and

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we hardly knew ye by O'Donnell and powers and then there was also with Kennedy by Pierre Salinger alright and these those are pretty good books by the way though those books stand up very well today you know especially when you compare them to later books that were published in the 90s and in a new millennium works by authors like Phillip meuling Beck and Robert rakove all right that does very good books these were meant to counteract them and to essentially be smear jobs all right that I began to see the paradigm that was set by them and these were that we have to make Joe Kennedy the father of all the Kennedy children into some kind of a rough caricature who had tremendous influence over his children and that kids were essentially empty vessels of this bad guy okay which is completely wrong all right and as this is one of the things I addressed in that essay all right for example Joe Kennedy was an isolationist that's what got him into trouble when he became ambassador to England right all right okay well from the first couple of years that JFK was in the House of Representatives it was very clear he was an internationalist okay he he was and this went on and on and on until it became a senator and president that he thought that the United States had a definite role to play in the foreign policy field okay it differed from what the Dulles brothers and Dean Acheson thought but there's no doubt that JFK was an internationalist okay

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internationalist okay and also congressman Kennedy voted sustained Harry Truman's veto the taft-hartley bill all right taft-hartley bill was very strongly anti-union all right but JFK didn't go along with that and of course that did not sit very well with his father but he did it anyway all right it also just the Kennedys American dynasty also says that Joe Kennedy actually wanted to be President that well in Richard Whelan's book it's 472 pages all right and it's not very you know Whalen was not a completely negative biographer but he was not a very sympathetic biographer either all right he labeled these is nothing but quote the echo of the press talking to itself in were they were amplified rumors hmm Joe Kennedy knew that he was not going to be President all right but then what these books try and do is say that somehow he then anointed his son John Kennedy and he had and he said you must go in the political in the political office and you must go ahead and go to the highest position you know what this is all counteracted you know by if you read for example the Adana land powers book okay you know you will see that JFK actually at the beginning of his after he got out of the service he was actually a reporter he had been a published author while England slap and that's the first thing he seriously thought of doing he thought of carving out a career in journalism and authoring books yes since his first book had been a pretty big success you

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book had been a pretty big success you know and so he then changed his mind after he had done a couple of reporting jobs in San Francisco at the UN and at the meeting at Potsdam in Europe and he felt that he could do a better job influencing events if he was in the arena rather than just reporting on it the guy was a political junkie from the beginning as John Shaw says in his book JFK in the Senate you know young John Kennedy is subscribed to the New York Times at age 14 all right okay so you know he had been very interested in this stuff for a long period of time all right and so he actually the other thing they actually influenced him on this was his experience in world war two before we uh let me I mean was the he had an older brother right and wasn't that sort of the savior Giovanni right who died who died in Europe okay in the war on a bombing mission okay and so but a lot of people believe is that Joe was actually going to be the guy who was going to lead the Kennedy dynasty into the political world all right and then the myth has it that after Joe perished his father called him in and said now that your brother is dead you know it has to be you none of that is true hmm none of that is true alright see JFK if you read about him because he was such a sickly child okay he did a lot of reading alright he was very curious he

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reading alright he was very curious he was very bright alright and that profile of course would fit into being a writer and an author okay and so that's that's for us what he wanted to do but after the war he decided you know that we should never let something like that happen again alright and so that was the other thing that influenced him to go into politics alright now this American dynasties this lackluster exercise then tries and goes ahead and it's smears JFK's service on pt-109 you know they cut from Richard Mahoney to David Nassau and this is obviously done very planned you know in advance and they said somehow JFK didn't make a big deal about his medals and that's Nassau after he says that Kennedy should have been court-martialed for what he did with pt-109 since he was out of his area this is what a bunch of baloney this is look the whole pt-109 episode been misconstrued by so many writers it's kind of ridiculous see that mission in August of 1943 pt-109 the torpedo boat was part of at least a nine boat platoon that was meant to try and draw these Japanese destroyers out of port and then picked them off as they came what went on here was that the mission was so badly designed all right number one and that the platoon leader

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number one and that the platoon leader provoked a response and then left JFK's platoon leader then left with the only radar set that they had so Kennedy's ship was caught in the dead of night completely pitch black with no radar not knowing who was in the vicinity and then when they started being attacked they thought it was assure batteries that's how blind they were but Kennedy didn't want to turn on the lights because of course that would tell the enemy where he was right so because the thing was bungled so badly despite the remaining PT boats became objects of attack instead of being attackers all right and so Kennedy's ship was rammed deliberately rammed by a Japanese destroyer cutting the boat in half and Kennedy now had to try and do his best to save what was left of his command to two guys were killed upon impact Kennedy managed to position some of them on the floating hunk of the debris of the ship some of these guys couldn't swim all right and so he then got them grouped together on some of the timber that was floating in the ocean and he led them away swimming little lifeboats trapped between his teeth towing a badly burned sailor behind him if you can believe this he did that for four hours all right until they reached

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four hours all right until they reached plum-pudding island but plum-pudding island didn't have water or fruit on it so then Kennedy had to scout to another nearby island he swam again two and a half miles to O Lisanna Island there he found some vegetation and water and he transferred the crew to that Island he then scratched out a message on a coconut shell and he gave it to some Native allied Scouts and canoes and the name managed to get it to their British Scout master and six days later with the crew very much in bad health a large canoe arrived with food that rescued them so what what this show says is completely bogus you

know the people who should have been court-martialed other people who planned the operation and then left with leaving him with no radar all right and unlike what the program says Kennedy was proud of his military service as he should have been he kept his three medals and he kept the coconut shell on his presidential desk this is nothing but a hatchet job their treatment of that whole episode is a deliberate hatchet job the worst tradition of TV journalism all right so then we go to the House of Representatives Kennedy's service there which the program pretty much has floats over all right Kennedy was very progressive as a congressman his issues were national health care the women wrists back in 1946 all right advocacy of workers rights to organize housing for returning veterans and securing the future the United Nations as a hope for peace in the world all right one of the things he concentrated on was housing for returning veterans he strongly criticized a Republican stance

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strongly criticized a Republican stance on this issue or he actually once said that their allies the American Legion had not had a constructive thought about American Progress since 1918 now that would be a good quote to put on TV wouldn't it not on there mm-hmm all right he actually debated Richard Nixon in McKeesport Pennsylvania in 1947 Nixon of course was for taft-hartley the union-busting bill all right JFK was against it all right that's not in the program either the show then runs to the Senate Evan Thomas who is used to work for Newsweek has now become pretty much a hack all right in tones at this time that John Kennedy considered RFK something like a pain in the butt at this time before he's about to become his campaign manager that's because the show leaves out the trip that they made to the Far East and Indochina in 1951 all right this was done in order for JFK to get a higher profile on foreign policy in order to run against Henry Cabot Lodge in Massachusetts for the Senate seat on that trip Kennedy met Edmund galleon a guy he won known very briefly in Washington Edmund galleon was a counsel in the State Department who was working at that time in Indochina because he spoke fluent French he was actually stationed in Saigon they also met with Nehru of India and both men gave them the same message that there is no way France is gonna retake Vietnam okay it's a hopeless cause that had a tremendous impact on JFK's thinking at the time

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impact on JFK's thinking at the time all right in fact the changes hold view of foreign policy right now Bobby Kennedy of course runs the 1952 Senate campaign and it is not at the request of Joe Kennedy as the show says it was done beat through Kenny O'Donnell O'Donnell pretty much told Bobby Kennedy that unless he took over there was a real possibility JFK was going to lose so Bobby became the campaign man and he did a very good job worked 18-hour days showed excellent organizational ability all right to set the next part of this show is so bizarre this is what I mean about being a hatchet job it's so bizarre is so misconceived that it gives away the game see what they do here they don't deal very much at all with JFK's career in the Senate all right which was about eight years what they concentrate on is Bobby Kennedy as counsel rather not she counsel his service of the McCarthy Committee and then what became the rackets committee under McClellan hmm right and he then became chief counsel as that committee passed from McCarthy to McClellan and it tries to say I really couldn't believe they said this that somehow senator Kennedy had a kind of nondescript career in the Senate and that the only highlight of it was when he served on the McClellan committee that is when Bobby Kennedy went after Jimmy Hoffa and the mob I mean I really couldn't believe this this was really ridiculous but this is how a gender driven this show is John

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is how a gender driven this show is John Shaw wrote what I think is the only book about JFK's career in the Senate okay and I think it's actually called dad JFK in the Senate in his book he goes through many of the distinguished things that's sent candy did they're on both the domestic side the regional side for the economy of Massachusetts okay the st. Lawrence Seaway things like that its advocacy for workers compensation unemployment insurance and those kind of very good domestic programs but he concludes that the achievement of what JFK did in the Senate is that the formulation of Canada's challenge to the reigning

foreign policy orthodoxy that governed both parties that was his signal achievement this show doesn't want to say that alright the Republican cold war militancy towards Russia and it's that influence in the third world was led by Eisenhower Vice President Nixon and the Dulles brothers John's phosphorus State and Allen at the CIA in the Senate Lyndon Johnson and the Southern Democrats offered no real alternative to this they were at best appeal shadow of that policy right and I Shaw notes with an old joke the Senate was the only place in the country where the south did not lose a civil war that's how much in control those southern senators were Kennedy continued his crusade from his meeting with Eddin going on trying to

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meeting with Eddin going on trying to create an alternative to this militant policy by trying to point out that the real problem in the third world wasn't communism it was colonialism and the counter force that had created which was a simmering sometimes boiling over nationalism Kennedy thought that the United States should Foster and mold that nationalism even if it meant conflicting with our European allies what makes the programs avoid until this key issue so bizarre is that one of the talking hands is Richard Mahoney Mahoney is the author of one of the best books on this subject JFK our deal in Africa and I don't for five seconds believe that the producers of this show weren't aware of that book they clearly wanted to ignore it and not let Mahoney talk about all the descriptions of Kennedy's opposition to Eisenhower and Nixon in that regard right so for instance there's no mention of Kennedy's opposition to operation vulture operation vulture was the scheme by John Foster Dulles to use atomic weapons to bail out the siege of the unbend Phu in 1954 so Kennedy was again stabbed he spoke up against it on the floor of the Senate there's nothing about Adlai Stevenson telegram to stifle Kennedy's radical foreign policy statements during the 1956 presidential race I couldn't believe this there's not even one mention of Kennedy's milestone speech in the summer of 1957 against the

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speech in the summer of 1957 against the Dulles Eisenhower attempt to help France salvage another remnant I was overseas Empire this time in Algeria Kennedy showed a lot of courage in making that speech because he was criticizing a longtime American ally namely France all right that speech in addition to being opposed by Eisenhower Nixon and the Dulles brothers it was criticized by literally scores of media outlets and also members of his own party like Stephenson and Atchison all right Kennedy was really hammered on that speech he really thought he had made a mistake but his father told him don't worry don't worry two years from now you're gonna look like a prophet because it's gonna get worse before it gets better which is exactly what happened hmm all right as the French dilemma in Algeria got worse and worse people began to think back to Kennedy's speech and said hey maybe this guy knew what the heck he was talking about and so Kennedy because of that speech became the unofficial emissary to visiting dignitaries from Africa he was the only guy in the Senate what any interested any interest in that continent at all and he was the only guy in this Santa who that early spoke against the whole Algerian Civil War that Nixon and Eisenhower allied against and he's the one who made the comparison when he said didn't we learn three years ago when the French fell at the unbend Phu that this is the wrong policy to be supporting them on if we were really their friends we'd be guiding them the negotiating table so they can make a graceful exit rather than trying to hang on to his last outpost of empire there is not one

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last outpost of empire there is not one single sentence in this entire show about this issue now David I ask you do you really think they missed it no I mean you make a good point that they have in several spots in here that they had the people you know talking who wrote on some of these specific issues but they just sort of leave out you know they sort of pick and choose even though they have some of these people they don't have them talk about some of these major things that they that they looked at so it's it's interesting to see what they pick and choose from even though they obviously were aware of these things you know I'm sure Richard Mahoney when he was I don't know how they set these up but I'm sure he had his chance to say I'd

like to talk about this and this and this and this was important and that was important and they probably conducted god knows how many hours of interviews with them and then they just picked you know this little bit and that little bit so you know when we're done with this section I'd like to get a little more into like you know why you think they do this and that but let's keep going I didn't want to ask I think you're about to get to the to the presidential election 1960 but just so we can get a timeline you know starting from the end of World War two until 1960 just what were the years of you know his his stint as house representatives and then extinct in the sand he was in the house from 46 to 52 he was in the Senate from 52 to 1960 and this is when now the show leads into the race for the presidency between Nixon and Kennedy all right it's it's pretty standard stuff it's very superficial but Tim Neftali gets in there and says somehow that the choice of Lyndon Johnson his VP was Joe Kennedy's all right again this is another attempt to somehow show the influence of Joe Kennedy and the lives of the Kennedy children the big problem with this is simply not true the two best books had deal with this subject are a thousand days by Arthur

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are a thousand days by Arthur Schlesinger and Kennedy by Ted Sorensen the two guys who were so strongly pushing Johnson on Kennedy were Phil Gramm to publisher the Washington Post and syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop you know really Graham even more than Alsop that's how this happened all right the what now at this point of course this is a very good opportunity for the program to show how this was one of the milestones that created a very strong antagonism between LBJ and Bobby Kennedy you know it doesn't it doesn't do that there's no there's a whole book about this by Jeff Shaw so-called mutual contempt and it spends a lot of time on this particularly the dispute between JFK and RFK okay on Lyndon Johnson all right and I don't think the show makes enough of that because in historical terms which is a supposed show supposed to be about this is a very important incident all right which is and it doesn't make enough of that Larry chai who's who did a very bad biography of RK now says that Bobby Kennedy was appointed Attorney General and he was a Lisa prepared Attorney General in history really Herbert Brownell Eisenhower's Attorney General was get this a state assemblyman for four years he was then chairman of the Republican National Committee for two years the rest of his life his career he was a corporate lawyer how does that prepare you for become Attorney General Homer Cummings who served under FDR was a mayor of Stamford Connecticut which at that time had a population of 50,000 he was an estate attorney in Fairfield Connecticut population 20,000 all right

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Connecticut population 20,000 all right Bobby Kennedy is served in Washington as a criminal investigator in the Justice Department and then a congressional counsel for ten years prior to becoming Attorney General he has faced often pursued some of the most deadly killers and organized crime members in America including Sam Giancana his pursuit of a mob in the Senate was unprecedented in American crime annals his attempt to clean up corrupt labor unions was also unique you know you could very much argue I believe that it was bobby kennedy who revolutionized the position of chief counsel and the use of investigative techniques on Capitol Hill see these things that before Bobby Kennedy they were essentially debating societies you know it was Bobby Kennedy who was one of the real pioneers in doing real investigations on Capitol Hill now I'm not gonna say he was the first and I'm not gonna say he was the only one okay but he was one of the pioneers in that field who and who then made it kind of standard to have you know accountants detectives investigators on your staff all right I mean what really could you ask more than Attorney General I don't think very much more but this is a part of the whole idea to somehow say that Bobby Kennedy's and JFK's first year in the White House was not very successful and so of course we only concentrate on the Bay of Pigs and perhaps the construction of the Berlin Wall you know then you can look at it that way see but because they ignored what JFK was doing in the Senate those eight years formulating this alternative foreign policy they ignore the things that JFK was trying to do once he went

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that JFK was trying to do once he went into the White House so therefore they don't talk about things like the Congo how Kennedy was trying to keep that state alive after Lumumba assassination they don't talk about his friendship with Sukarno and Indonesia they ignore how much Kennedy admired that best-selling book *The Ugly American* alright which summarize his attitude towards the American State Department in the third world he actually bought a hundred copies of that book and he gave it to all the other senators he then helped get the film made alright so what he was doing here in addition to you Congo and Indonesia he was also changing American foreign policy in the Middle East he was doing an outreach to Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt okay because John Foster Dulles had burned that relationship because Nasser recognized China and refused to join the Baghdad pact alright and then because of that Foster Dulles withdrew the funding for the Aswan Dam and that gave Moscow an opportunity to fill that breach which they did Kennedy thought that was very ill-advised for three reasons generally speaking Heath thought we could compete with the Russians in the third world by peaceful means that is befriending and aiding non-aligned neutral leaders second Nasser was an articulate charismatic leader who had a very wide influence in the Middle East I mean he was really the only guy like that if you ask me third he was a secularist a socialist

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third he was a secularist a socialist and a progressive who directly opposed the Islamic fundamentalists which was a force in that area that Kennedy feared as far back as his speech in 1957 in fact Nasser had members of the Muslim Brotherhood prosecuted imprisoned and executed I'm in my article here I linked to a video on youtube about Nasser addressing that issue his opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood that was really the underground organization that was trying to spread Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Middle East and that group was financed by the British right okay because the British felt that would be easier to deal with monarchies we're just monarchies in their representation of BP the giant petroleum company then it would be somebody like Nasser or Mosaddegh who would drive for better deals for the Arab people all right sir and let's look at where we are today with that right exactly that's exactly what I'm talking about wouldn't that have been a very contemporary issue for this show to deal with about American policy in the third world and the all the powerful overtones that conflict had with the growth of al-qaeda you know but of course by now it's pretty obvious that these people didn't want this new information on their you know no matter how interesting no matter how and all right so what they do is they talk about the Bay of Pigs the failure at the Bay of Pigs but they don't review what happened afterwards

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happened afterwards that is the appointment of the tailor Commission and JFK's appointment of Bobby Kennedy to be on that Commission and how Bobby Kennedy went after Allen Dulles when he was on the witness stand asked him some very difficult questions with Dulles really couldn't answer then he consulted with Bob Lovett the former Secretary of Defense through his father Joe Kennedy and found out that both love it and David Bruce instated tried to get Dulles fired alright when JFK was alerted to all this and talked to love it he decided to decapitate the top level two CIA Allen Dulles dick Bissell and Charles Cobell there isn't one word in his documentary about that not one word alright ok so then we go to the space missions and this is depicted as a win at all cost ambition instilled in his children by Joe Kennedy this is just silly and again what this show does it ignores the inputs of one of their own commentators Tim Naftali in his book *one hell of a gamble* he wrote that in May of 1961 JFK really didn't want to promote the space race the cold war in space race all right he thought it would be a good idea to propose a co-sponsored mission Kennedy originally thought the whole space mission was way too expensive and only when the Russians refused a joint proposal because they were ahead at that time by Dean Rusk did Kennedy then commit to Apollo and even then he tried

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commit to Apollo and even then he tried for a Joan a joint to the moon so obviously if this was supposed to be an exhibition of a win at all cost attitude well why do you try and launch a joint mission if you're trying to win at all cost and the answer is he wasn't but they don't want to tell you that hmm one of the most shocking things about this series is that there isn't one mention of Vietnam during the whole discussion of President Kennedy's tenure not one Wow and when they do bring up the subject later during Bobby Kennedy's presidential campaign Evan Thomas the hack gets both clauses of his sentence wrong he says that somehow Bobby thought badly about the early decision to send American troops into Indochina all right first of all there were no American troops in Indochina from 1961 to 1963 there were no more combat troops in Vietnam on the day Kennedy was killed then on the day he came into office meaning none all right secondly in other words are only advisers secondly there isn't any trace of Bobby Kennedy being in the bomb in those early discussions on what to do about the American commitment into Indochina I mean there's two very good discussions of this issue by John Newman in JFK and Vietnam and James blight in virtual JFK I couldn't find any trace of Bobby Kennedy being in the room when JFK overruled his advisers saying we're not sending combat troops in we're only going to go ahead and increase a number of advisers that we send there so I don't know what the heck Evan Thomas is talking about here really all right I

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talking about here really all right I mean let's put it this way when your program comes up and pales in comparison with Chris Matthews in his recent biography of Bobby Kennedy he quotes our of Kay's saying in 1967 that his brother would have never sent combat troops in the Indochina because then it would become America's war and as John bore wrote in his much better book the revolution of Robert Kennedy Bobby Kennedy was advising Johnson as early as 1964 not to militarize Indochina all right see this reveals right there in an air of course that there was a split between Johnson and JFK on Vietnam and that RFK knew about it well they don't wanted to delve into that whole issue all right that's where they're coming from let me just go through a few more of the instead of going into in-depth on these issues let me just highlight some of the other failures of this terrible program all right what has become a right wing paradigm in the field is echoed by Evan Thomas and Van Jones who both say that the Kennedys are not really interested in civil rights when they entered the White House this is completely wrong and it's contradicted by the record as journalist Harry golden wrote back in 1964 John Kennedy was an advocate of a strong civil rights bill back in 1957 he thought the bill proposed by Lyndon Johnson who was the majority leader at the time was a little bit too weak but he voted for it anyway all right Kennedy said the same to an audience when he spoke about the issue and of all places Jackson Mississippi which was in 1957 as

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Jackson Mississippi which was in 1957 as golden writes in his book those two incidents started the decline in JFK's popularity in the south but he was not going to hesitate in 1960 he told his civil rights advisory staff that he was prepared to lose every state in the south at the Democratic convention in order to preserve a strong civil rights plank in the platform as Irving Bernstein a very good historian from UCLA between the 1960 election and his 1961 inauguration President Kennedy asked his lead civil rights adviser Harris Wolford throughout a detailed memo on that entire issue that plan which was made up of legal actions and executive orders was what attorney general Bobby Kennedy followed once he was sworn in in other words what the show was selling at the beginning what Jones and Thomas are saying is no surprise just wrong all right and in fact in November of 1963 Bobby Kennedy was seriously pondering writing a letter of resignation to his brother because it had become obvious to him that his support for civil rights had been so prominent til you lost the entire south for the brother's 64 campaign thus endangering his reelection it's you know it's simply a historical fact you know and I don't know why all these people try and deny it in three years less than three years the Kennedy administration did more to advance the cause of civil rights than the previous 18 presidents did in the hundred years before them and this culminated in JFK's memorable national address on the issue in June of 1963 the Kennedys shows that

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in June of 1963 the Kennedys shows that time to go on national television because the confrontations after Birmingham and at the University of Alabama it was now possible to pass an omnibus civil rights bill over a filibuster in the Senate that speech was originally penned as the show tried to say that was written by Bobby Kennedy was actually written by his employee Richard Yates who would later go on to become a very famous novelist he wrote that book revolutionary Road that was then turned into a film the treatment of the Missile Crisis is so elementary that I don't even think it would pass muster in a high school class alright it tries to say that Bobby Kennedy was a first-person suspect that somehow there had been missiles and this touch is not true John McCone the director the CIA was the first person who says prospectus JFK had a hard time believing it cuz he had deliberately warned Khrushchev against putting offensive missiles into Cuba alright this is about one month before the U2 flights captured the photos of the installations alright so finally when the YouTube flights come in and he confronts the JFK confronts the Soviet foreign minister and the Soviet foreign minister lies about it okay then the crisis is on RFK now becomes important because his back channel to debris ninth but it was really Khrushchev

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debris ninth but it was really Khrushchev when he sent in a sec of his first telegram his telex formulating a deal about the missiles in Cuba for the missiles in Turkey that was really the beginning of an answer to the problem and it's interesting of course that during the one contribution of the show is that Jackie Kennedy never left the White House which of course means that the whole Mimi Alfred crap okay was a bunch of baloney which I suspected for a long time alright and I can't believe so many people even some people on our side fell for it which leads of the Marilyn Monroe angle the film shows his famous clip of Monroe singing happy birthday to JFK at his 1962 birthday party whenever I see this clip it always leaves out the information that you know that wasn't like a private party or anything like that that was at Madison Square Garden paid audience of 15,000 people it was part of a Democratic Party fundraiser something a JFK had done before the reason there were 15,000 people there was because it included not just her but Jack Benny Danny Kaye Ella Fitzgerald Peggy Lee Maria Callas and Jimmy Durante and then men even more in other words you had some of the most famous comedians and singers and the entire world there hmm that's why it was so crowded all right now this is one of the things I did a lot of work on in that previous essay and I talked to some people who were authorities in the field all right and I came to the conclusion that this whole thing about Monroe and JFK was pretty

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thing about Monroe and JFK was pretty much a rumor there really wasn't anything there and that people like Jeanne Carmen and Bob Slats her were really kind of clowns who furnish hack writers like David Heyman with tall tales to burnish their tawdry books with all right but these people never give up and after I wrote that article a man named John Miner how the press conference in Los Angeles and said that he had unearthed long bury two audio tapes of Munro talking about her relationship with JFK I did some work on miner he had been in the LA district attorney's office during the murder of Bobby Kennedy during that case he had been suspended for unethical practices for about four or five years now having watched the LAPD and there let's put it this way not very zealous pursuit of justice in the Bobby Kennedy case all right I can tell you that that whole thing is institutionally wide because at the civil suit has got injured against the LAPD for his pictures that he took in the pantry that night the LAPD ran that trial literally and I put in details here of why I believe that is so Bill Turner and John Christian in their book the assassination of Robert Kennedy revealed that the estate of the late William Joseph Bryan was executed by none other

[00:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3120s)

Joseph Bryan was executed by none other than John Miner now to anybody who was studied the RFK murder this is crucial to understanding the depth of official malfeasance in that case for his people like Lisa Peas and Tim Tate have stated Brian is the prime suspect as the CIA Pentagon associated psychiatrist who programs Sirhan for his diversionary role in the RFK assassination after Brian died in the hotel room in Las

Vegas minors sealed off Brian's office and took possession of his personal and professional effects after studying Brian's career I can state that there was a lot to hide minor was not taking any chances any of it leaking out can one imagine anything much worse than a prosecutor in charge of the estate of a prime suspect in a murder case one who got off scot-free finally as William Blum writes in his book the CIA forgotten history the LAPD cooperated with CIA agent Robert Mayhew in the production of a pornographic film depicting in an actor as the Indonesian leader sukarno with a shapely blonde woman who someone said resembled Monroe need I add that some knowledgeable people suspect may he was involved in the RFK assassination anybody can connect the dots here if you can fake a film it's easy to create or alter audio tapes and let me add this Secret Service agents Clint Hill and Gerald Blaine are both on the record is saying that there was no such Marilyn Monroe lies on which JFK and as anybody familiar with the Secret Service will understand they had no great love for their boss all right now the film then goes into well let's put it this way it completely ignores his steel crisis JFK is standing

[00:54:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3241s)

ignores his steel crisis JFK is standing up to the steel companies who double-crossed him and raising the price of steel which the great John Blair the economists called quote the most dramatic confrontation in history between a president and a corporate management alright there's not one word in the whole series about that there's almost nothing about the JFK assassination watching this show you would think that the most tragic thing that happened was at since Jackie and JFK had lost a child their marriage was let's say getting warmer all right that was about it nothing about all the changes that took place as a result of Kennedy's assassination in Congo Indonesia Vietnam I can go on and on none of that and there's no record in this film of the reaction of Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev when they got the news of Kennedy's assassination and we all know about that is because it's in JFK and the unspeakable alright Castro was thunderstruck because JFK's emissary John Danielle was there and they JFK was mapping out a outline for approach want between the United States and Cuba Castro was stunned he said this is bad news over and over then he got a second call telling them JFK was now dead and capture said everything has now changed everything is going to change which was true when Khrushchev heard of the shooting he went into a state of shock the next day when he signed his condolences at the American ambassador's residence he appeared to be crying as his biographer William Todman wrote

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his biographer William Todman wrote Khrushchev needed Kennedy and that was one of the Kennedys assassinations one of the things that led to Khrushchev being retired from office the following year neither Khrushchev nor Castro ever believe the official story as oswald as a lone assassin in fact Castro made his speech to the next day in which he went ahead and offered his opinion as though it really happened and wine none of this is in there none of this the avoidance syndrome continues to be apparent when we address Bobby Kennedy's reaction to the news of JFK's assassination the program does deal with Hoover's calls to RF Kay's home but only skims the surface of all the phone calls that Bobby Kennedy made that afternoon like Castro RFK Emily thought his brother been killed as a result of a domestic plot okay and his main suspects were the CIA the Cuban exiles and the mob which of course shows how cute he was in that regard all right in other words Bobby Kennedy was on the same page with Castro and Khrushchev and then of course he and Jackie Kennedy sent William Walton a cultural ambassador to Russia to convey a message to Bobby's friend Georgi bolshakov all right saying that they believed that Kennedy had been killed by a large domestic conspiracy Lyndon Johnson would not be able to fulfill President Kennedy's grand design four-day taunt since he was too close to big business interests Bobby would then resign run for office and then for the presidency and then they would fulfill together JFK's goals of a day taunt and a melting

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JFK's goals of a day taunt and a melting of the Cold War and again this is in Timnath alleys book one hell of a gamble so if they wanted to put it in there they had the perfect guy to talk about it all right now what happens after with Bobby Kennedy going to the Senate and then deciding to run for the presidency in 68 they don't have anybody on this like Joe Palermo wrote a very good book on this in his own right John bore wrote a pretty good book the revolution of Robert Kennedy he's only on this show for like three minutes okay they clearly didn't want to hear from these guys what happened to Bobby Kennedy after his brother was assassinated the conflict between for example Bobby Kennedy and LBJ over Vietnam because Bobby Kennedy knew what his brother was doing that last year all right in other words he was withdrawing and so Bobby Kennedy opposed Johnson's escalation of the war and then during 1964 with the passage of the Civil Rights Act when Johnson invited the racist J Edgar Hoover to the ceremony and offered him a pen and then gave the can of pens to Bobby Kennedy to pass out to everybody else well Bobby Kennedy got the message and he decided to resign from office okay and go to the Senate there's nothing in the series about Bobby Kennedy standing up to the NRA there's nothing about senator Kennedy standing out to cigarette companies there's nothing about his attempt to repeal right-to-work laws in the south which weakened unions you know RFK s

[01:00:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3603s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3603s)

which weakened unions you know RFK s trip to Latin America is very much discounted you know John bore in his book revolution of Robert Kennedy spends 24 pages on the things that Bobby Kennedy did down there all right which was like bawling out landlord's for swindling their employees trying to talk crowd in Brazil to march on the presidential palace going down into a mine to see what that job was like and then coming up and say hey by to do that all day I'd be a communist - and if you can believe it it doesn't do at noth-nothing period with which a lot of people believe is the whole highlight of Bobby Kennedy's tenure in the Senate which which is trip to South Africa to Cape Town in 1966 which i think was the first time any american politician had addressed that the apartheid issue in a public forum all right incredible the chronicle of Bobby Kennedy's last campaign in 1968 is done without distinction of any kind at all you know and and that's pretty bad because that campaign for the Democratic nomination was really the last crusade of the generation of the 60s it was their last hope after the murders of JFK Malcolm X and King now King was still alive at the beginning and he would not endorse LBJ or Eugene McCarthy okay after they had cooperated through Marian Wright on the Poor People's Campaign King was elated

[01:02:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3721s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3721s)

Poor People's Campaign King was elated when Canada declared his can deceive saying he wouldn't make an outstanding president and of course because Kennedy was associated at that time we Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta which of this series very much minimizes he became the candidate for the poor and the downtrodden and minority groups well within three weeks after his announcement King was dead in Memphis the program does show RFK going into downtown Indianapolis to calm a campaign crowd by delivering a news of King's death but there's very little about the California primary where for the first time in the history of the city of Los Angeles the voter turnout on the poor East Side was higher than the turnout on the wealthy West Side because of course RFK was backed by Chavez by Huerta and by the memory of what he did for civil rights all right and his speech in Cape Town he had given those people a reason to vote can these campaign workers were shocked they woke up early and before the doors had even opened on the voting booths in East LA people were lined up for blocks okay and that's of course what propelled him she was victory all right and there's almost nothing of course we all know what happened after he made his speech he was assassinated in the pantry right there's almost nothing about that assassination okay and nothing about the impact of that assassination because the impact of that assassination of course was that it led to the victory of Richard Nixon who was really kind of the anti RFK and it was Nixon and Kissinger

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anti RFK and it was Nixon and Kissinger who then continued the war in Indochina for four more years and they expanded it in the Cambodia and Laos the Cambodia expansion cause he overthrows SIA nuke the leader of that country which led to the coming to power the Khmer Rouge and a genocide that took the lives of two million more people all right combined with the current surveys of how many perish in Vietnam from 1955 to 1973 that makes for a total of 6 million dead after the murder of JFK in Indochina all right somehow CNN thought that Kennedy's falling out with Frank Sinatra over his underworld connections was more important than elucidating that's fact of history all right and I as I adhered that editorial choice tells us a lot about what our culture has devolved into two segments on Eunice Shriver and Ted Kennedy are they're almost too brief to even they're at discussion unless Kennedy married Sargent Shriver and they both became integral parts of the Kennedy administration in the Kennedy legacy Joe Kennedy hired Sidon harbor to manage one of the crown jewels of his real estate empire the Chicago Merchandise Mart after JFK was elected Shriver was under the prime designers of the piece course then the Job Corps and in the head start program he ran the Office of Economic Opportunity under Johnson he was in Ambassador France from 68 to 70 at his funeral in 2011 which I've linked to here Bill Clinton said words of the effect that Sargent Shriver set the bar too high for all those in public service

[01:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=3960s)

too high for all those in public service you knees Kennedy his wife worked in the field of juvenile delinquency for the Justice Department she then moved to Chicago to continue that work and also contributed her time to a women's shelter she was a major advocate for special needs children and was very important making a Special Olympics of national program I mean if there was ever a wealthy couple they did more for people in dire straits and the Schreiber's I'd like to know who it was they don't get anything but lip service on this program a small segment comparatively speaking as devoted to ket Kennedy much of that of course is devoted to Chappaquiddick you know and I think they get it all wrong the best book I ever wrote on I remember read on Chappaquiddick was a book by James lang and Catherine DeWitt called Chappaquiddick the real story that book showed that contrary to what the late Leo d'amour was selling Ted Kennedy didn't get any special treatment in that case all right it's pretty obvious a Ted Kennedy suffered a severe concussion and the accident and this is why his doctors considered doing the spinal tap to see if there was brain damage he also had to wear a neck brace for weeks afterwards it was that concussion that caused his shock and retrograde amnesia Kennedy got a suspended sentence for leaving the scene of an accident and he's an insurance company paid an indemnity to the family of Mary Jo Kopechne II for her accidental death mr. lang who was a very experienced personal injury lawyer wrote that's pretty much what usually happened back in those days for a first time case where the record as clean as Ted Kennedy's was so now what randy taraborrelli this entertainment reporter says that Joan Kennedy Ted's first wife

[01:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=4081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=4081s)

says that Joan Kennedy Ted's first wife attended Mary's funeral with Ted and this attendance was semi directly related to a miscarriage in her pregnancy what the show leaves out is that John Kennedy had previously suffered two prior miscarriages that she had a mushrooming alcohol problem for which we later received numerous traffic citations and she had to go into rehab for it was a problem that she could never really overcome all right it deals with the loss by Ted Kennedy to Jimmy Carter in the Democratic primaries in 1980 but it deals very little at all with his great moments in the Senate his defeat of Robert Bork's nomination for the Supreme Court his lonely spirited defense of Anita Hill his ultimate successful attempt to cut off funding for the Vietnam War his attacks on this a Nixon and Kissinger for the genocide in East Pakistan commonly called Bangladesh his push for a settlement in ulster and is calling the Iraq invasion George HW Bush's Vietnam alright so in other words none of the none of those specifics are really important okay to this show this program is really the end result of a trend I first noticed in my 1997 essay in the assassinations the posthumous assassination of John F Kennedy it's a combination of the tabloid ization of our mainstream media with the desperate attempt by cable TV to garner a wider audience that peering has become fatal to honest reporting and scholarly research in some this series is pretty much a worthless time filler it ignored

[01:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=4201s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=4201s)

much a worthless time filler it ignored really good scholars on the Kennedy presidency like Robert Rakove and opted for People magazine types like Taraborrelli and Sally Bedell Smith and mainstream hacks like Larry Tish and Evan Thomas you know it was nice to see some female commentators on the program but when there is mediocre as the males then what does it mean to have them on what this program really proves is the opposite of what it tries to show when you have to censor and curtail as much material as this series did it reveals that the true facts of what the Kennedy brothers tried to achieve poses as much a national security problem for the country as a real facts about their assassination but here's the capper which I did not realize until later and I added this as an addendum to the article the main producer of the show was something called Raw TV based in England that production house was purchased by Discovery Channel in 2004 Discovery Channel of course was behind the late Gary Max attempts to reassert to discredited Warren Report with so shows like inside the target car and JFK the Ruby connection I do not think it's a coincidence that the people who try and cover up the fact to the JFK murder are also those who disguise who he really was and what his presidency was all about and at the end I went ahead and I linked to my reviews of those two Discovery Channel debacles okay and I also linked to my slideshow which was

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also linked to my slideshow which was done in the hundredth anniversary of Jo Kay's birthday and it's a detailed examination of who JFK really was and what he really stood for and I also linked to my essay I consortium news about the real career of Bobby Kennedy so you get an antidote to this mainstream garbage you know you know so so let me ask you there's a you know people are gonna watch this some of them know a lot about the Kennedys maybe some of them probably 90% of them know very little at all you know they'll watch it within a week maybe they'll probably forget most of the details but they're gonna be left with this impression of the Kennedys what you know with like one minute what is the impression that you think this leaves of the Kennedys and then and why do you think you know we know CNN is it faces pressures from politicians and just kind of general people you know saying oh why presenting like this or even internally you know why presenting like this no let's present it like this you know we have six hours to do it we'll do it this way we'll do it that way we'll pick this that why leave why leave that impression you know as opposed to something more positive especially in a time here where you know everybody's worried about the Trump and what's happening to democracy and all this kind of thing I I think that the motive behind this show like this and the fact that it was produced by the Discovery Channel tells you a lot about the why is that it wants to downplay discount or in some cases completely ignore the great things that

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completely ignore the great things that the Kennedys did you know like President Kennedy RFK and even Ted Kennedy to a lesser extent in order to reduce their legacy all right it's and like I said at the end of my review this goes hand-in-hand with what the mainstream media has done with the actual circumstances surrounding the assassinations of JFK and RFK because on the one hand what you do is scream out time after time there was no conspiracy and on the other hand if you say well they really didn't do all that much good stuff anyway you as essentially what that does it stops any questioning about the why and if you remember one of the best scenes in Oliver Stone's movie JFK is one Mr. Axe is on the park bench with Jim Garrison and he says that's the real question isn't it why okay so one leads to the other all right and and and by the way the MSM has been shameless in this regard utterly shameless and I have to say that the more I delve into this because like I think I told you before the last five years of my research career I'd say I devoted about 80% of my time to uncovering the secrets facts about President Kennedy's foreign policy all right and I didn't realize what a giant cover-up there had been about that issue

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cover-up there had been about that issue you know and I believe today I believe that the cover of about what JFK was doing in the field of foreign policy the really radical stuff he was doing has been even more covered

up than the real facts about his assassination I realize that's a big statement but I think I'm equipped to judge both because I've written books about both subjects all right and so I really believe that they go hand in hand David and I think that's the reason it's not a coincidence coveri channel that spent two shows covering up the circumstances of President Kennedy's murder is now in the business of covering up the true circumstances of his political career I think they're both disgraceful you know but unfortunately and I've said this before also and in my estimation the media in the United States is probably one of the very worst there is in all of the westernized countries and it's getting better rather not it's not getting better it's actually getting worse all right you can the reason for that is that PBS has now gone into the tank on this issue but doesn't it behoove the Democrats to you know I know they don't have control over CNN or anything like that but doesn't it behoove them to enhance the legacy we see how Ronald Reagan is treated as in this ridiculous way as this man who won the Cold War and all his misdeeds and crimes that he carried out in Central America are completely ignored and he almost see the opposite with Kennedy where all of his failings are are boosted and all of his successes are downplayed but you don't really hear any complaints from Democrats or people on the left which is a little more complicated I understand but you know

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complicated I understand but you know doesn't it behoove them or do you think that their policies now are just so far away from where Kennedy's was that they would rather forget about what he was trying to do believe me believe me if there's anybody who would like to see that it's me because I think this is one of the reasons the Democratic Party has become neutered is because they don't stand up for the people they should be standing up for in fact as you can see from this program you know people like Van Jones have ended up you know in the pockets are the people trying to tear down that legacy you know so nobody would like to see that more than I would and the only time I think it's ever happened was when there was supposed to be that trashy series a dead docudrama about the Kennedys in which there was a Hollywood producer that we bent began a campaign against it you know and on the Internet and so it had to go to that trashy Network Stars which is getting more and more powerful as that as time goes on at that time it didn't reach out very many people but but now it does and this of course is all related David to the terrible policies that were pursued by Bill Clinton that led the media conglomeration you know his that whole revision of the Telecommunications Act that Bill Clinton did in ninth I think was 1996 that was oh my god you know it this began under Reagan but it was then continued by the Clintons you know and and it's given us first of all it struck down the Fairness Doctrine and he

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down the Fairness Doctrine and he time so this means of course that you can say just about anything you want to say on TV and you don't have to grant the other side equal time as we saw in 1967 or 68 when NBC attacked Jim Garrison on network television he applied for equal time and he and he'd although he didn't get equal time he didn't get an hour he did get 30 minutes all right all right but an incredible thing to watch he gets to study his whole case on national TV that must have been mind-boggling to see you know millions of people must have watched that see but Reagan struck that down all right and disallowed for what we have today which is advocacy television yeah you could attack anybody and you don't get equal time you know and and so then what Clinton did is he struck down the FCC rules about local monopolies and national monopolies and that which I think was in 1996 combined with what happened with the proliferation of cable TV that was coming in that allowed the conglomeration of Akil because NBC owns MSNBC Fox network owns Fox Cable okay you know and CNN was run by Turner Network so that allowed even these new technologies to now be dominated by these mega corporations and so you don't have and then of course when money the Republicans began to have a jeremiad against PBS they began to strike more and more money away from the PBS budget

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and more money away from the PBS budget until they had to go to private companies and foundations and you go to foundation money you know like most of the money's on the on the right okay so you get people like the cook brothers who sponsored the anteye JFK show that was on PBS for the 2012-2013 anniversary and this is what really worries me about the state of the media that we have all right and it's very very unfortunate you know Trump talks about fake news all right well unfortunately he's not talking about the right fake news you know he just does that in order to attack people who are attacking him he really doesn't have very much interest in the whole historical saga of what has happened the media in this country it's it's it's it's an honor disgrace if it wasn't for the Internet I really don't think we'd have much of anything and as we know Donald Trump is trying to hinder that with what will eventually become what what they call the tiered system in other words if you want total access the internet everything you're gonna have to pay more than what you would if you got less and less it's gonna be like your options with cable TV right you know you want to only get basic cable then you pay thirty five bucks a month if you want to get the whole thing it's a hundred and forty five dollars a month that's where I think it will go unless the Democrats do something about this now let me add one other point about this we saw a few days ago a terrific historical upset this little girl Alexandria I think her name is Osso Castillo Cortez right one

[01:24:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=5042s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuXtmT_vuRI&t=5042s)

name is Osso Castillo Cortez right one and actually she won very soundly she won by about 12 points she beats an entrenched Democratic congressman who was probably headed to become minority leader of the House of Representatives she was outspent something like six to one and Crowley didn't underestimate there's so much he didn't even bother debater face-to-face but she won on a very progressive platform okay and I this might be now I'm not gonna overstate this but this might be I believe part of the reaction is developing against Donald Trump all right I hope it is how this woman worked for Ted Kennedy she actually worked in his immigration office and she was the first person I know who in any kind of campaign began to actually say we should get rid of ice okay and if you can believe it that's caught on down now there's about seven or eight Democrats who are talking about eliminating ice you know so maybe that's a good harbinger we'll see right okay let's but you know something why don't we postpone the Tom Hanks one and until a separate show because that actually deserves its own show Jim this is a great talk thank you very much and yeah thank you so much David and we'll we'll take up Tom Hanks in 1968 on a second show great sounds good [Music] this is our hidden history you

END